

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, M.S. 19-31
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-7964



April 5, 1982

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 82-32

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENTS
ALL COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENTS
ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCIES
ALL DSS ADOPTION DISTRICT OFFICES

SUBJECT: Adoption of Children by Their Foster Parents

This letter is to clarify the intent of procedures for adoption of children who are in foster care when the agency and foster parents determine that they wish to proceed with an adoption plan.

When foster parents express an interest in adoption or the agency determines that such a plan is in the best interest of the child, referral should be made to the appropriate agency. (County adoptions unit or State Department of Social Services Relinquishment District Office or private adoption agency) By making such a referral, rather than recommending to the foster parents that they file an independent adoption petition, there will be assurance of continuity of services and resources necessary for successfully completing the adoption.

The specific benefits to the family in proceeding with an agency rather than an independent adoption are:

1. Services will be available through the period from placement until the adoption is granted and there is agency protection if the placement is unsuccessful.
2. The adoption agency can provide the needed legal work to free the child for adoption and can make Aid for Adoption of Children payments available to the foster parents if needed to facilitate and sustain the adoption plan.

If there are any questions about this letter, please contact the adoption program consultant in your county.

Sincerely,

CLAUDE E. FINN
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA